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Communications
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Press Release

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES CONTINUES DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Board of Public Works Approves Contracts

BALTIMORE, MD (July 2, 2002) -- The MD CHESSIE (Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange) Project of the Department of Human Resources will continue as a result of the Board of Public Works' decision to approve two contract renewals/modifications. Consequently, the Monitoring Contractor, MAXIMUS, Inc. will remain with the project in a Quality Assurance/ Quality Control capacity and the System Development and Implementation Vendor, Deloitte Consulting, LP will continue to develop, test, pilot and implement the system.

MD CHESSIE is Maryland's version of the federal Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) model. MD CHESSIE is a comprehensive system that is designed to capture and track child welfare data statewide. Additionally, MD CHESSIE incorporates the requirements for the federally mandated Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). MD CHESSIE will particularly:

- Establish a statewide foster care and adoption payment issuance and reconciliation system that provides fiscal accountability, monitoring, controls, and reporting capabilities;
- Provide social workers with an interactive system which automates the case record, assists in scheduling appointments, generates reminders, prints notices, authorizes payments, and performs other administrative functions;
- Enable DHR to respond to the rapidly growing demands for child welfare data; and
- Facilitate good practice by including policy and procedural manuals with hypertext links. Additionally, the system will contain good-practice reminders and constraints.

For Immediate Release

In Fiscal Year 2002, DHR's Social Services Administration (SSA) finalized 952 adoptions. SSA also conducted 32,715 Child Protective Service (abuse and neglect) investigations and carried an average monthly caseload of 11,418 children in out-of-home care. This data and individual case data will be easily accessible via MD CHESSIE.

The system is projected to be fully operational in 2006. For the duration of project development and implementation, the Department will sustain its support of MD CHESSIE and will ensure that prudent measures are continually employed to provide an effectual automated child welfare system to the children and families of Maryland.

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